

**Glenda Wiles**

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**From:** Dunwell, Mary Ann [MDunwell@mt.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 17, 2008 9:17 AM  
**To:** Dunwell, Mary Ann  
**Subject:** DEQ News Release - Sampling Results Reveal Extent of Jet Fuel Contamination at Ravalli County Airport

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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FOR MORE INFORMATION  
Nicholas Sovner, Environmental Science Specialist  
The Montana Department of Environmental Quality  
(406) 841-5044, nsovner@mt.gov

**Sampling Results Reveal Extent of Jet Fuel Contamination at Ravalli County Airport**

Helena - Results received by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) from a soil investigation at the Ravalli County Airport in Hamilton indicate three separate plumes of contamination resulted from the 4,500-gallon jet fuel spill there on July 1, 2008.

Data from the soil sampling, which was conducted in August, enabled scientists to define the three plumes and pinpoint their locations. All three are located above a shallow aquifer, which is approximately 6 feet below ground surface. Contamination exists to the northwest and the southeast of the airport maintenance building. It is contained to airport property and surrounds the airport maintenance building. The total area of the three plumes is approximately 8,100 square feet, or 0.2 acres.

“The lab results confirmed what we suspected as far as the extent and magnitude of the spill,” says Nick Sovner, DEQ Environmental Science Specialist. “Fortunately, nothing unexpected turned up. We appreciate the cooperation of the responsible party and local officials, as well as the patience of the community.”

Cleanup plans include excavation that will occur in two phases. Work on the first phase will take place before winter around the above-ground storage tanks. Groundwater monitoring wells will be installed after excavation is completed. Crews will most likely dispose of the contaminated soil at the Missoula landfill.

The spill occurred during a jet fuel transfer by Northstar Aviation from an above-ground storage tank to a mobile fueling truck. The design of the storm water system caused the fuel to migrate through two culverts, thus creating multiple contamination sites.

Approximately 800 gallons of fuel were removed during initial response and cleanup. Domestic wells servicing the airport maintenance building and the nearby US Forest Service building will continue to be sampled. To date, no evidence of contamination has been found in either well.

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